

Message Text

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21 11
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 AF-10 CCO-00 SSO-00 SAB-01

IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 /140 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON:PM
APPROVED BY NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON
S/S - MR. PICKERING

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R 200021Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 247666

E.O. 11652: X-GDS
TAGS: PINR
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO GENEVA CONFERENCE
REF: CAIRO 4038

1. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES ON MAIN SUB-
ORDINATE MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION:

A. DEPUTY HEAD OF DELEGATION, DR.HUSSEIN KHALLAF, HAS SERVED AS EGYPT'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO EUROPEAN OFFICE OF UN IN GENEVA. BORN IN 1913, HE HOLDS LAW DEGREE FROM CAIRO UNIVERSITY AND PH.D. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM UNIVERSITY OF PARIS. HE IS REGARDED AS COMPETENT, EXPERIENCED, AND PRAGMATIC TECHNICIAN, AND WAS FORMERLY A PROFESSOR OF LAW AND ECONOMICS. NAMED TO FIRST GOVERNMENT POST IN 1953, HE HELD GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN FIELDS OF BANKING AND INDUSTRY, AND IN 1964 WAS NAMED MINISTER OF FOREIGN CULTURAL RELATIONS. HE WENT TO GENEVA IN 1965. FRIENDLY IN CONTACTS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS, KHALLAF SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN.

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B. AMB. MOHAMMAD RIAD, UNDER SECY AT FON MINISTRY, HAS SPENT MUCH OF HIS CAREER AS AN ASSISTANT TO FORMER FON MIN, NOW SECY-GENERAL OF ARAB LEAGUE, MAHMOUD RIAD. MOHAMMAD RIAD HAS ALSO BEEN ONE OF CHIEF POINTS OF CONTACT OVER THE YEARS FOR USINT CAIRO ON IMPORTANT POLITICAL

ISSUES. ABOUT 49, WITH DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS FROM CAIRO U., HE JOINED FON MINISTRY IN 1946 AND HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE UN EXPERIENCE. A WIDOWER WITH 2 CHILDREN, HE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL.

C. ABDALLAH ERIAN, AMB. TO UN EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA, IS DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL LAWYER AND FORMER DEPUTY PERM REP TO UN (1968-71). BEFORE APPOINTMENT AS AMB. TO FRANCE IN 1970, HE HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH UN IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES SINCE 1949. HE HAS SPENT MANY YEARS IN U.S., AND IS CONSIDERED OBJECTIVE AND RATIONAL. BORN IN 1920, HE STUDIED AT CAIRO, HARVARD AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITIES. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS 2 CHILDREN.

D. EL SHAFEI ABDUL-HAMID IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ORGANIZATIONS DEPT, FON MINISTRY, AND AT 46 HAS HAD LENGTHY EXPERIENCE IN UN AFFAIRS SINCE JOINING THE FON MINISTRY IN 1951. AFFABLE AND EXTROVERTED, HE IS CONSIDERED CAPABLE ALTHOUGH NOT INFLUENTIAL OR A POLICY-MAKER. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS 2 CHILDREN.

E. TAHSIN BASHIR, NEW PRESIDENTIAL PRESS ADVISOR, WAS PREVIOUSLY ASSISTANT TO PRESS ADVISOR ASHRAF GHORBAL. HE HAS HELD PRESS AND INFORMATION POSITIONS AT THE UN, IN MINISTRIES OF INFORMATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND AT ARAB LEAGUE. BORN IN 1925, HE STUDIED AT CAIRO, PRINCETON, AND HARVARD UNIVERSITIES. BASHIR WAS BRIEFLY DISMISSED IN MAY 1972 (ALONG WITH ISMAIL FAHMI) FROM POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF PRESS DEPARTMENT IN FON MINISTRY BECAUSE OF ANTI-SOVIET VIEWS EXPRESSED AT AN AL-AHRAM SEMINAR ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS. HE WAS IN LIMBO UNTIL EARLY 1973. A GREGARIOUS BACHELOR, BASHIR SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

F. OMAR SIRRI, COUNSELOR AT EGYPTIAN MISSION TO
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EUROPEAN OFFICE OF UN IN GENEVA, HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER IN UN AFFAIRS. HE IS FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF IO DEPT AT FON MINISTRY.

2. BIO ON AHMAD UTHMAN AND NABIL ARABI WAS TRANSMITTED IN STATE 245554.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE247666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GNANDERSON:PM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731213/aaaaajbz.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CAIRO 4038
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO GENEVA CONFERENCE
TAGS: PINR, (FAHMY, ISMAIL), (KHALLAF, HUSSEIN)
To: PARIS GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005